

FEB 14 2019

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO ESTABLISH A TASK  
FORCE TO REVIEW HAWAII'S CURRENT VOTER EDUCATION SYSTEM AND  
PROPOSE IMPROVEMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, a successful democracy engages most of its  
2 eligible citizens in voting; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, voter turnout in Hawaii's 2018 general election  
5 was only 39.3 percent; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, of those persons in Hawaii registered to vote in  
8 the November 2018 election, only 52.7 percent voted; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, insufficient voter education is a significant  
11 factor that contributes to poor citizen engagement in Hawaii;  
12 and

13  
14 WHEREAS, it is important that voter education be balanced,  
15 politically nonpartisan, and available to all citizens; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, an appropriate voter education program should  
18 provide accurate information in everyday language explaining all  
19 ballot measures; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, an appropriate voter education program should also  
22 accommodate bilingual voters, disabled voters, and voters who  
23 are voting for the first time; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the State is best situated to provide appropriate  
26 voter education to voters at the time they vote; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, the voter education initiatives and experiences of  
29 other states and jurisdictions may be applicable and relevant to  
30 Hawaii; now, therefore,

31  
32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
33 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the  
34 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to establish a task  
35 force to review Hawaii's current voter education system and



1 propose improvements, including recommendations on costs, best  
2 practices, and the design of future voter education systems; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the composition of the task  
5 force is requested to be as follows:  
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- 7 (1) The Chief Election Officer, or the Chief Election  
8 Officer's designee;  
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- 10 (2) The clerk of each county, or each clerk's respective  
11 designee;  
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- 13 (3) One appointee of the President of the Senate;  
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- 15 (4) One appointee of the Speaker of the House of  
16 Representatives;  
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- 18 (5) One appointee of the Minority Leader of the Senate;  
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- 20 (6) One appointee of the Minority Leader of the House of  
21 Representatives;  
22
- 23 (7) One political scientist appointed by the Board of  
24 Regents of the University of Hawaii; and  
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- 26 (8) Three advocates of voter education, to be appointed by  
27 the Executive Director of Common Cause Hawaii,  
28 President of League of Women Voters of Hawaii, and  
29 President of Associated Students of the University of  
30 Hawaii, respectively; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the task force  
33 shall be elected by a two-third vote of the task force members;  
34 and  
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
37 submit a preliminary report to the Legislature no later than  
38 twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2020,  
39 and a final report, including any recommended legislation, to  
40 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
41 of the Regular Session of 2021; and  
42



# S.R. NO. 16

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the Senate, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Chief Election Officer, Clerk of each county, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Executive Director of Common Cause Hawaii, President of League of Women Voters of Hawaii, and President of Associated Students of the University of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:











